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PROSELYTE. *n. f.* [*προσelyτης*, Gr.; *proselite*, Fr.] A convert; one brought over to a new opinion.
He that saw hell in's melancholy dream,
Scar'd from his sins, repented in a fright,
Had he view'd Scotland, had turn'd *proselite*. *Cleaveland.*
Men become professors and combatants for those opinions
they were never convinced of, nor *proselites* to. *Locke.*
Where'er you tread,
Millions of *proselites* behind are led,
Through crowds of new-made converts still you go. *Crano.*
What numbers of *proselites* may we not expect. *Addison.*
TO PROSELYTE. *v. a.* To convert. A bad word.
Men of this temper cut themselves off from the opportu-
nities of *proseluting* others, by averting them from their com-
pany. *Government of the Tongue.*
PROSEMINATION. *n. f.* [*proseminatio*, Lat.] Pro-
pagation by seed.
Touching the impossibility of the eternal succession of men,
animals or vegetables by natural propagation or *prosemination*,
the reasons thereof shall be delivered. *Hale.*
PROSEDIAN. *n. f.* [from *prosedius*.] One skilled in metre or
prose.
Some have been so bad *prosedians*, as from thence to derive
malum, because that fruit was the first occasion of evil. *Brown.*
PROSODY. *n. f.* [*prosodie*, Fr. *προσωδία*.] The part of
grammar which teaches the sound and quantity of syllables,
and the measures of verse.
PROSOPICIA. *n. f.* [*προσωπικία*, Gr.; *prosopie*, Fr.] Per-
sonification; figure by which things are made persons.
These reasons are pathetically urged, and admirably raised
by the *prosopieia* of nature speaking to her children. *Dryden.*
PROSPECT. *n. f.* [*prospectus*, Lat.]
1. View of something distant.
Eden and all the coast in *prospect* lay. *Milton.*
The Jews being under the economy of immediate revela-
tion, might be supposed to have had a freer *prospect* into that
heaven, whence their law descended. *Decay of Piety.*
It is better to marry than to burn, says St. Paul; a little
burning felt pushes us more powerfully, than greater pleasures
in *prospect* allure. *Locke.*
2. Place which affords an extended view.
Him God beholding from his *prospect* high,
Wherein past, present, future he beholds,
Thus spake. *Milton's Par. Lost, b. iii.*
3. Series of objects open to the eye.
There is a very noble *prospect* from this place: on the one
side lies a vast extent of seas, that runs abroad further than the
eye can reach: just opposite stands the green promontory of
Surrentum, and on the other side the whole circuit of the bay
of Naples. *Addison.*
4. Object of view.
Man to himself
Is a large *prospect*, rais'd above the level
Of his low creeping thoughts. *Denham.*
Present, sad *prospect*! can he ought desire,
But what affects his melancholy eye;
The beauties of the ancient fabrick lost
In chains of craggy hills, or lengths of dreary coast. *Prior.*
5. View into futurity: opposed to retrospection.
To be king,
Stands not within the *prospect* of belief,
No more than to be Cawdor. *Shakespeare, Macbeth.*
To him, who hath a *prospect* of the different state of per-
fect happiness or misery, that attends all men after this life,
the measures of good and evil are mightily changed. *Locke.*
If there be no *prospect* beyond the grave, the inference is
right; let us eat and drink, for to-morrow we shall die. *Locke.*
Against himself his gratitude maintain'd,
By favours past, not future *prospects* gain'd. *Smith.*
6. Regard to something future.
Is he a prudent man, as to his temporal estate, that lays
designs only for a day, without any *prospect* to, or provision
for the remaining part of his life. *Tillotson.*
TO PROSPECT. *v. a.* [*prospectus*, Lat.] To look forward. *Dist.*
PROSPECTIVE. *adj.* [from *prospect*.]
1. Viewing at a distance.
The French king and king of Sweden are circumspect, in-
dustrious and *prospective* too in this affair. *Child.*
TO PROSPER. *v. a.* [*prosperus*, Lat.] To make happy; to
favour.
Kind gods, forgive
Me that, and *prosper* him. *Shakespeare, King Lear.*
All things concur to *prosper* our design;
All things to *prosper* any love but mine. *Dryden.*
TO PROSPER. *v. n.* [*prosperus*, Fr.]
1. To be prosperous; to be successful.
My word shall not return void, but accomplish that which
I please, and it shall *prosper* in the thing whereto I sent it. *If.*
This man encreased by little and little, and things *prosp-*
ered with him more and more. *Mac. viii. 8.*
Surer to *prosper*, than prosperity
Could have assur'd us. *Milton.*

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2. To thrive; to come forward.
All things do *prosper* best, when they are advanced to the
better; a nursery of stocks ought to be in a more barren
ground, than that whereunto you remove them. *Bacon.*
The plants, which he had set, did thrive and *prosper*. *Cowley.*
She visits how they *prosper'd*, bud, and bloom. *Milton.*
PROSPERITY. *n. f.* [*prosperitas*, Lat. *prosperite*, Fr.] Success;
attainment of wishes; good fortune.
Prosperity, in regard of our corrupt inclination to abuse the
blessings of Almighty God, doth prove a thing dangerous to
the souls of men. *Hooker, b. v. l. 48.*
God's justice reaps that glory in our calamities, which we
robbed him of in our *prosperity*. *King Charles.*
PROSPEROUS. *adj.* [*prosperus*, Lat.] Successful; fortunate.
Your good advice, which still hath been both grave
And *prosperous*. *Shakespeare, Macbeth.*
Either state to bear *prosperous* or adverse.
May he find
A happy passage, and a *prosperous* wind. *Denham.*
PROSPEROUSLY. *adv.* [from *prosperus*.] Successfully; for-
tunately.
Prosperously I have attempted, and
With bloody passage led your wars, even to
The gates of Rome. *Shakespeare, Coriolanus.*
In 1596, was the second invasion upon the main territories
of Spain, *prosperously* achieved by Robert earl of Essex, in
conform with the earl of Nottingham. *Bacon.*
Those, who are *prosperously* unjust, are intitled to panegy-
ric, but afflicted virtue is stabbed with reproaches. *Dryden.*
PROSPEROUSNESS. *n. f.* [from *prosperus*.] Prosperity.
PROSPICIENCE. *n. f.* [from *prospicio*, Lat.] The act of look-
ing forward.
PROSTERNATION. *n. f.* [from *prosterno*, Lat.] Dejection;
depression; state of being cast down; act of casting down.
A word not to be adopted.
Pain interrupts the cure of ulcers, whence are stirred up a
fever, watching, and *prosternation* of spirits. *Wifeman.*
PROSTHESIS. *n. f.* [*προσθεσις*.] In surgery, that which fills up
what is wanting, as when fistulous ulcers are filled up with
flesh. *Dist.*
TO PROSTITUTE. *v. a.* [*prostituere*, Lat. *prostituere*, Fr.]
1. To sell to wickedness; to expose to crimes for a reward. It
is commonly used of women sold to whoredom by others or
themselves.
Do not *prostitute* thy daughter, to cause her to be a whore.
Lev. xix. 29.
Marrying or *prostituting*,
Rape or adultery. *Milton's Par. Lost, b. xi.*
Who shall prevail with them to do that themselves which
they beg of God, to spare his people and his heritage, to
prostitute them no more to their own sinister designs. *D. of Pi.*
Affections, consecrated to children, husbands, and parents,
are vilely *prostituted* and thrown away upon a haud at loo. *Add.*
2. To expose upon vile terms.
It were unfit, that so excellent and glorious a reward, as
the gospel promises, should stoop down like fruit upon a full
laden bough, to be plucked by every idle and wanton hand,
that heaven should be *prostituted* to foolish men. *Tillotson.*
PROSTITUTE. *adj.* [*prostituere*, Lat.] Vicious for hire; sold
to infamy or wickedness; sold to whoredom.
Their common loves, a lewd abandon'd pack,
By sloth corrupted, by disorder fed,
Made bold by want, and *prostitute* for bread. *Prior.*
PROSTITUTE. *n. f.* [from the verb.]
1. A hireling; a mercenary; one who is set to sale.
At open fulsome bawdry they rejoice,
Base *prostitute*! thus dost thou gain thy bread. *Dryden.*
No hireling she, no *prostitute* to praise. *Pope.*
2. [*Prostituta*, Lat.] A publick strumpet.
From every point they come,
Then dread no dearth of *prostitutes* at Rome. *Dryden.*
PROSTITUTION. *n. f.* [*prostitutio*, Fr. from *prostituere*.]
1. The act of setting to sale; the state of being set to sale.
2. The life of a publick strumpet.
An infamous woman, having passed her youth in a most
shameless state of *prostitution*, now gains her livelihood by fe-
ducing others. *Addison's Spectator.*
PROSTITUTE. *adj.* [*prostituere*, Lat.] The accent was for-
merly on the first syllable.
1. Lying at length.
Once I saw with dread oppressed
Her whom I dread; so that with *prostitute* lying,
Her length the earth in love's chief cloathing dressed. *Stan.*
He heard the western lords would undermine
His city's wall, and lay his towers *prostrate*. *Fairfax.*
Before fair Britomart she fell *prostrate*. *Spenser.*
Groveling and *prostrate* on yon lake of fire. *Milton.*
2. Lying at mercy.
Look gracious on thy *prostrate* thrall. *Shakespeare.*
3. Thrown down in humblest adoration.
The warning found was no sooner heard, but the churches
were filled, the pavements covered with bodies *prostrate*, and
washed with tears of devout joy. *Hooker.*
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Let us to the place
Repairing where he judg'd us, *prostrate* fall
Before him reverent; and there confess
Humbly our faults, and pardon beg. *Milton.*
While *prostrate* here in humble grief I lie,
Kind virtuous drops just gath'ring in my eye. *Pope.*
TO PROSTRATE. *v. a.* [*prostratus*, Lat.]
1. To lay flat; to throw down.
In the streets many they flew, and fired divers places, *pro-*
strating two parishes almost entirely. *Hayward.*
A storm that all things doth *prostrate*,
Finding a tree alone all comfortless,
Beats on it strongly, it to ruin. *Spenser.*
Stake and bind up your weakest plants against the winds,
before they come too fiercely, and in a moment *prostrate* a
whole year's labour. *Evelyn's Calendar.*
The drops falling thicker, faster, and with greater force,
beating down the fruit from the trees, *prostrating* and laying
corn growing in the fields. *Woodward's Nat. Hist.*
2. [*Se prosternere*, Fr.] To throw down in adoration.
Some have *prostrated* themselves an hundred times in the
day, and as often in the night. *Duppa.*
PROSTRATION. *n. f.* [*prosternatio*, Fr. from *prosternere*.]
1. The act of falling down in adoration.
Nor is only a resolved *prostration* unto antiquity, a power-
ful enemy unto knowledge, but any confident adherence unto
authority. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*
The worship of the Gods had been kept up in temples,
with altars, images, sacrifices, hymns and *prostrations*. *Stillington.*
The truths, they had published to in speculation, they
reverberated by a brutish senseless devotion, managed with a
greater *prostration* of reason than of body. *South's Sermons.*
2. Dejection; depression.
A sudden *prostration* of strength or weakness attends this
colic. *Arbutnot.*
PROSTYLE. *n. f.* [*prostyle*, Fr. *προστυλή*.] A building that has
only pillars in the front. *Dist.*
PROSYLOGISM. *n. f.* [*pro* and *sylogism*.]
A *prosylogism* is when two or more syllogisms are so con-
nected together, that the conclusion of the former is the
major or the minor of the following. *Watts.*
PROTASIS. *n. f.* [*protasis*, Fr. *πρότασις*.]
1. A maxim or proposition.
2. In the ancient drama, the first part of a comedy or tragedy
that explains the argument of the piece. *Dist.*
PROTATICK. *n. f.* [*protatike*, Fr. *πρωτατικὸς*.]
There are *protatiks* persons in the ancients, whom they use
in their plays to hear or give the relation. *Dryden.*
TO PROTECT. *v. a.* [*protectus*, Lat. *proteger*, Fr.] To
defend; to cover from evil; to shield.
The king
Had virtuous uncles to *protect* his grace. *Shakespeare.*
Leave not the faithful side,
That gave thee being, still shades thee and *protects*. *Milt.*
Full in the midst of his own strength he stands,
Stretching his brawny arms and leafy hands,
His shade *protects* the plains. *Dryden's Virgil.*
PROTECTION. *n. f.* [*protectio*, Fr. from *protect*.]
1. Defence; shelter from evil.
Drive tow'rd Dover, friend, where thou shalt meet
Both welcome and *protection*. *Shakespeare, King Lear.*
If the weak might find *protection* from the mighty, they
could not with justice lament their condition. *Swift.*
2. A passport; exemption from being molested: as, *he had a*
protection during the rebellion.
PROTECTIVE. *adj.* [from *protect*.] Defensive; sheltering.
The stateliest failing swan guards his officer idle,
Protective of his young. *Thomson.*
PROTECTOR. *n. f.* [*protector*, Fr. from *protect*.]
1. Defender; shelterer; supporter; one who shields from evil
or oppression; guardian.
Hither th' oppressed shall henceforth resort,
Justice to crave, and succour at your court;
And then your highness, not for our's alone,
But for the world's *protector* shall be known. *Waller.*
The king of Spain, who is *protector* of the commonwealth,
received information from the great duke. *Addison.*
2. An officer who had heretofore the care of the kingdom in
the king's minority.
Is it concluded, he shall be *protector*? *Shakespeare.*
PROTECTOR. *n. f.* [*protector*, Fr. from *protector*.] A wo-
man that protects.
All things should be guided by her direction, as the sove-
reign patroness and *protectors* of the enterprise. *Bacon.*
Behold those arts with a propitious eye,
That suppliant to their great *protectors* fly. *Addison.*
TO PROTEND. *v. a.* [*protendo*, Lat.] To hold out; to stretch
forth.
All stood with their *protended* spears prepar'd. *Dryden.*
With his *protended* lance he makes defence. *Dryden.*
PROTEVITY. *n. f.* [*protevit*, Latin.] Peculiarity; petu-
lance.

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TO PROTEST. *v. n.* [*protestor*, Lat. *protestor*, Fr.] To give
a solemn declaration of opinion or resolution.
Here's the twin brother of thy letter; but let thine inherit
first, for, I *protest*, mine never shall. *Shakespeare.*
The peaking cornuto comes in the instant, after we had
protested and spoke the prologue of our comedy. *Shakespeare.*
I have long lov'd her; and I *protest* to you, bestowed much
on her; followed her with a doating obsequence. *Shakespeare.*
He *protests* against your votes, and swears
He'll not be try'd by any but his peers. *Denham.*
The confidence has power to disapprove and to *protest*
against the exorbitances of the passions. *South.*
TO PROTEST. *v. a.*
1. To prove; to show; to give evidence of. Not used.
Many unfought youths, that even now
Protest their first of manhood. *Shakespeare, Macbeth.*
2. To call as a witness.
Fiercely they oppos'd
My journey strange, with clamorous uproar,
Protesting fate supreme. *Milton.*
PROTEST. *n. f.* [from the verb.] A solemn declaration of
opinion against something.
PROTESTANT. *adj.* [from *protest*.] Belonging to protestants.
Since the spreading of the *protestant* religion, several nations
are recovered out of their ignorance. *Addison.*
PROTESTANT. *n. f.* [*protestant*, Fr. from *protest*.] One of
those who adhere to them, who, at the beginning of the re-
formation, protested against the errors of the church of Rome.
This is the first example of any protestant subjects, that have
taken up arms against their king a *protestant*. *K. Charles.*
PROTESTATION. *n. f.* [*protestatio*, Fr. from *protest*.] A so-
lemn declaration of resolution, fact or opinion.
He maketh *protestation* to them of Corinth, that the gospel
did not by other means prevail with them, than with others
the same gospel taught by the rest of the apostles. *Hooker.*
But to your *protestation*; let me hear
What you profess. *Shakespeare, Winter's Tale.*
If the lords of the council issued out any order against
them, some nobleman published a *protestation* against it. *Clarendon.*
I smiled at the solemn *protestation* of the poet in the first
page, that he believes neither in the fates or destinies. *Addison.*
PROTESTER. *n. f.* [from *protest*.] One who protests; one who
utters a solemn declaration.
Did I use
To stale with ordinary oaths my love
To every new *protester*? *Shakespeare, Julius Caesar.*
What if he were one of the latest *protesters* against popery?
and but one among many, that set about the same work? *Att.*
PROTHONOTARY. *n. f.* [*protonotaire*, Fr. *protonotarius*,
Lat.] The head register.
Salignicus, the pope's *prothonotary*, denies the Nubians
professing of obedience to the bishop of Rome. *Berrwood.*
PROTHONOTARSHIP. *n. f.* [from *prothonotary*.] The office or
dignity of the principal register.
He had the *prothonotaryship* of the chancery. *Carew.*
PROTOCOL. *n. f.* [*protokoll*, Dutch; *protocole*, Fr. *πρωτοκόλλιον*,
from *πρωτό* and *κόλλω*.] The original copy of any writing.
An original is filed the *protocol*, or scriptura matrix; and
if the *protocol*, which is the root and foundation of the instru-
ment, does not appear, the instrument is not valid. *Ayliffe.*
PROTOMARTYR. *n. f.* [*πρωτόμαρτυρ* and *μαρτυρ*.] The first martyr.
A term applied to St. Stephen.
PROTOPLAST. *n. f.* [*πρωτόπλαστ* and *πλαστός*.] Original; thing
first formed as a copy to be followed afterwards.
The consumption was the primitive disease, which put a
period to our *protoplasts*, Adam and Eve. *Harvey.*
PROTOTYPE. *n. f.* [*prototype*, Fr. *πρωτότυπον*.] The original
of a copy; exemplar; archetype.
Man is the *prototype* of all exact symmetry. *Watson.*
The image and *prototype* were two distinct things; and
therefore what belonged to the exemplar could not be attri-
buted to the image. *Stillington.*
TO PROTRACT. *v. a.* [*protractus*, Lat.] To draw out;
to delay; to lengthen; to spin to length.
Where can they get victuals to support such a multitude,
if we do but *protract* the war. *Knolles.*
He shrives this woman to her mock;
Else ne'er could he so long *protract* his speech. *Shakespeare.*
PROTRACT. *n. f.* [from the verb.] Tedious continuance.
Since I did leave the presence of my love,
Many long weary days I have out-worn,
And many nights, that slowly seem'd to move
Their sad *protract* from evening until morn. *Spenser.*
PROTRACTER. *n. f.* [from *protract*.]
1. One who draws out any thing to tedious length.
2. A mathematical instrument for taking and measuring angles;
protraction. *n. f.* [from *protract*.] The act of drawing to
length.
Those delays
And long *protraction*, which he must endure,
Betrays the opportunity. *Daniel.*
As to the fabulous *protractions* of the age of the world by
the Egyptians, they are uncertain idle traditions. *Hale.*
PROTRACTIVE.